

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
ICA-11 AID-05 IO-13 HA-05 /099 W  
-----029260 010559Z /11

R 311043Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8404  
INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI  
AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO  
AMEMBASSY DACCA  
AMEMBASSY KABUL  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
CINCPAC  
AMCONSUL LAHORE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 ISLAMABAD 7428

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PK  
SUBJECT: CMLA ZIA TOURS BALUCHISTAN WHILE THE POLITICAL POT BOILS

REF: (A) ISLAMABAD 7366 (B) ISLAMABAD 7352

1. SUMMARY: CMLA GENERAL ZIA HAS SPENT THE PAST FOUR DAYS IN THE  
THINLY-POPULATED BUT GEO-POLITICALLY IMPORTANT PROVINCE OF  
BALUCHISTAN WHERE HIS ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN DIRECTED AT DEFUSING  
DIVISIVE (AND EVEN SEPARATIST) SENTIMENTS AMONG THE BALUCHI  
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PEOPLE. IN A WHIRLWIND OF ACTIVITY GENERAL ZIA HAS DELIVERED  
NUMEROUS MAJOR PRONOUNCEMENTS ON BOTH NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL  
ISSUES; HAS SUSPENDED A PARTICULARLY DETESTED LAND REFORM  
REGULATION; HAS HELD PROTRACTED MEETINGS WITH TRADITIONAL BALUCHI  
LEADERS; AND HAS PERFORMED A SCORE OF HIGH-PROFILE WARD-HEELING  
GESTURES INCLUDING MOURNING THE RECENT (APPARENTLY NON-POLITICAL)  
MURDER OF THE BALUCHISTAN MUSLIM LEAGUE PRESIDENT.

--WHILE THE CMLA MENDS FENCES THE POLITICAL CAULDRON CONTINUES TO PERK WITH INDECISION ON JOINING ZIA'S GOVERNMENT BEING EXPRESSED BY LEADERS OF THE PAKISTAN NATIONAL ALLIANCE PENDING A NATIONAL CONCLAVE WHICH WILL IMMEDIATELY FOLLOW ZIA'S RETURN TO THE CAPITAL. END SUMMARY.

2. CHIEF MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR, GENERAL ZIA IS IN THE FOURTH DAY OF A SIX-DAY VISIT TO BALUCHISTAN. HIS VISIT HAS RECEIVED MAXIMUM MENTION FROM THE MEDIA AND HIS ACTIVITIES HAVE RANGED FROM THE STATESMANLIKE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT HIS GOVERNMENT IS TAKING A CLOSE LOOK AT ITS CENTO TIES TO MORE SALUBRIOUS UNDERTAKINGS OF THE BABY-KISSING GENRE. GENERAL ZIA HAS (AS HAVE HIS PREDECESSORS) USED THIS TOUR OF THE HUSTINGS TO UNDERLINE ISLAMABAD'S VIEW OF THE PROVINCE AS AN IMPORTANT AND INTEGRAL PART OF PAKISTAN AND AS AN AREA DESERVING SPECIAL CONSIDERATION BY THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT DUE TO ITS UNIQUE SOCIAL STRUCTURE AND GEO-POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE.

3. MEETING WITH BALUCHI LEADERS. AFTER SPENDING HIS FIRST DAY ADDRESSING MILITARY UNITS IN THE QUETTA AREA (REF A), GENERAL ZIA HELD A THREE-HOUR MEETING JULY 31 WITH THE ACKNOWLEDGED LEADERS OF THE BALUCHI PEOPLE. FORMER PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR GHASUS BAKHSH BIZENJO, FORMER CHIEF MINISTER ATAUAH MENGAL AND FORMER AWAMI PARTY PRESIDENT KHAIR BAKHSH MARRI TOLD THE PRESS AFTER THEIR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MEETING WITH ZIA THAT ALL HAD GONE WELL AND THAT THEIR COMMENTS ON BALUCHI MISTREATMENT BY ISLAMABAD HAD BEEN WELL TAKEN BY THE CMLA.

--BIZENJO STATED QUOTE WE HAVE AGREED ON ALMOST ALL ISSUES AND THERE WILL BE NO FURTHER TALKS. UNQUOTE. HE CALLED THE DISCUSSIONS SATISFACTORY AND WELCOME.

--MENGAL, HOWEVER, EXPRESSED REGRET THAT THE CMLA SEEMED TO BE GIVING MORE CONSIDERATION TO THE GOP BUREAUCRACY AND ITS PROBLEMS IN THE PROVINCE THAN HE WAS TO THE PLIGHT OF THE AVERAGE BALUCHI. WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THE GROUP HAD OBTAINED AGREEMENT FROM THE CMLA ON MANY ISSUES, MENGAL CONTENDED THE QUESTION OF REHABILITATION OF BALUCHIS (FORMERLY STIGMATIZED AS CRIMINAL ELEMENTS) HAD BOGGED DOWN.

4. MEETING WITH LOCAL DELEGATIONS. ON JULY 29 AND 30 THE CMLA TRAVELED TO TOWNS AND VILLAGES THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE WHERE HE HELD MEETINGS WITH GROUPS OF LOCAL TRIBAL LEADERS. THE SESSIONS WERE CONDUCTED ON A HIGHLY RHETORICAL LEVEL WITH LITTLE OR NO REAL CONFRONTATION REPORTED. THE DELEGATIONS PRESENTED THEIR PREDICTABLE DEMANDS AND THE CMLA MADE GENERALLY SOOTHING SOUNDS.

--IN ZIARAT THE CMLA TOLD THE DELEGATIONS FROM A DOZEN VILLAGES THAT THE MLA IS PAYING FULL ATTENTION TO THE PROBLEMS OF THE RURAL DWELLER AND ASSURED THEM OF FULL COOPERATION.

--THE PERFORMANCE WAS REPEATED NUMEROUS TIMES WITH GENERAL PROMISES OF ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDS, ROAD PROJECTS AND ASSISTANCE TO AGRICULTURE. NO FIRM COMMITMENT TO SPECIFIC PROJECTS WAS ANNOUNCED HOWEVER.

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

5. LAND REFORM. IN WHAT MAY PROVE TO BE HIS MOST SIGNIFICANT SOP TO THE BALUCHI MASSES AND POLITICAL LEADERS, GENERAL ZIA ANNOUNCED ON JULY 30 THAT MARTIAL LAW REGULATION 115, RELATING TO LAND REFORM, WOULD BE SUSPENDED FOR SIX MONTHS IN BALUCHISTAN. THIS, THE CMLA SAID, WILL SPEED-UP RESETTLEMENT OF PREVIOUSLY DISPOSSESSED BALUCHIS.

--MLR 115, PROMULGATED BY THE BHUTTO REGIME IN 1972, SYSTEMATIZED LAND DISTRIBUTION AND SET ACREAGE LIMITS. IN BALUCHISTAN THE REGULATION WAS USED BY THE BHUTTO GOVERNMENT TO REWARD ITS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PEOPLES PARTY (PPP) SUPPORTERS AND GENERALLY TO DISPOSSESS NON-PPP ELEMENTS OF THE COMMUNITY.

--DURING THE SIX-MONTH SUSPENSION LAND OWNERSHIP AND TRANSFERS WILL BE ADMINISTERED AND ADJUDICATED BY JIRGAS (TRIBAL COUNCILS) IN EACH DISTRICT. THIS RESPITE FROM THE STRICT LETTER OF THE LAW SHOULD PERMIT THE BALUCHI LEADERS TO REALLOCATE LANDS THUS SOLIDIFYING THEIR OWN POLITICAL BASES -- ALL DUE TO THE ALTRUISM OF THE MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATION.

6. ISLAMIC CREDENTIALS FLAUNTED. THE CMLA REPEATEDLY DURING THE TOUR HAS REITERATED THE ORTHODOX MUSLIM CHARACTER OF HIS GOVERNMENT. IN ADDRESSING THE MILITARY ON THREE CONSECUTIVE DAYS HE SPOKE OF THE JIHAD AND OF THE DANGER OF INFIDELS BOTH WITHIN AND WITHOUT.

--IN QUETTA GENERAL ZIA CALLED FOR HARD WORK AND SACRIFICE AS THE ALMIGHTY GOD BLESSES ONLY THOSE WHO TRY. HE FURTHER IDENTIFIED ISLAM AND ITS HOLY MISSION AS THE BASIS OF PAKISTANI NATIONALISM AND OF POTENTIAL BALUCHI PROGRESS.

--THE CMLA EXPRESSED THE NATION'S CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF THE RECENTLY-MURDERED BALUCHI MUSLIM LEAGUE PRESIDENT, MURAD JAMALI. (COMMENT: JAMALI'S DEATH RESULTED FROM TRIBAL FEUDING APPARENTLY NOT LINKED TO HIS POLITICAL ACTIVITIES).

7. INTERNATIONAL ISSUES. ON JULY 30 THE CMLA USED A QUETTA PRESS CONFERENCE TO MAKE A MAJOR PRONOUNCEMENT ON GOP INTERNATIONAL INTENTIONS. HE ANNOUNCED THAT PAKISTAN QUOTE WOULD NOT BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED UNQUOTE. HE INSISTED PAKISTAN IS NOT POPULATED BY 73 MILLION DOLLS BUT RATHER BY THAT MANY PEOPLE QUOTE SELF-RESPECTING AND IMBUED WITH THE ISLAMIC SPIRIT UNQUOTE. PAKISTAN'S ASSOCIATION WITH CENTO WOULD BE MAINTAINED, THE CMLA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SAID, ONLY AS LONG AS THE PACT PROVES BENEFICIAL TO THE PAKISTANI PEOPLE.

8. MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE RANCH....  
IMMEDIATELY BEFORE DEPARTING FOR BALUCHISTAN GENERAL ZIA HELD A MUCH-PUBLICIZED MEETING WITH MUFTI MAHMUD, HEAD OF THE PAKISTAN

NATIONAL ALLIANCE (REF B) IN WHICH HE INVITED MUFTI AND HIS PARTY TO ACCEPT SOME PORTFOLIOS IN THE GOVERNMENT. MUFTI IS NOW MULLING THE DECISION AS TO WHETHER THE ALLIANCE WILL JOIN OR WILL CONTINUE IN A PSEUDO-OPPOSITION STATUS. THE PUBLIC IS LED TO BELIEVE THE FINAL DECISION ON THIS MATTER WILL BE DETERMINED BY A MEETING OF THE ALLIANCE CENTRAL COUNCIL ON AUGUST 3.

--ON JULY 30, HOWEVER, THE PRO-PPP TAMEER PUBLISHED A STORY QUOTING RELIABLE SOURCES STATING NOT ONLY THAT THE ALLIANCE WILL REBUFF ZIA'S OVERTURES, BUT ALSO THAT THE PAKISTAN MUSLIM LEAGUE (THE ONLY PARTY TO JOIN ZIA'S GOVERNMENT) WILL PULL OUT OF THE CABINET THUS ENDING THE EMBRYONIC MLA/CIVILIAN PARTNERSHIP.

9. COMMENT: THE TAMEER REPORT IS NOT SUBSTANTIATED AND MAY REPRESENT ONLY THE NORMAL PPP-INSPIRED MISCHIEF WE HAVE COME TO EXPECT. IT DOES, HOWEVER, EMPHASIZE THE PRECARIOUS TENURE THE MLA HAS ON ANY POPULAR LEGIMACY AND ON THE IMPORTANCE THE MLA PLACES ON SUCH EFFORTS AS THE PRESENT FENCE-MENDING TOUR OF BALUCHISTAN. HUMMEL

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## Message Attributes

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